## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /104 R

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P 282038Z JUN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: GAS PIPELINE DECISION

REF: OTTAWA 5419

- 1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED TO RESPOND TO BASIL ROBINSON'S QUESTION TO KATZ ABOUT THE IMPACT OF A CONGRESSIONAL RECESS IN OCTOBER ON THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION CONCERNING A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR ALASKAN NATURAL GAS.
- 2. THE ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1976 STATES THAT THE CONGRESS MUST PASS A JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL WITHIN THE FIRST PERIOD OF SIXTY CALENDAR DAYS OF CONTINUOUS SESSION OF CONGRESS BEGINNING ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DATE AFTER THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE QUOTE DATE OF RECEIPT UNQUOTE IS THE FIRST DAY BOTH HOUSES ARE IN SESSION AFTER THE PRESIDENT TRANSMITS HIS DECISION TO THE CONGRESS.

3. ASSUMING THAT THE CONGRESS RETURNS FROM ITS AUGUST

RECESS ON SEPTEMBER 7, AS NOW SCHEDULED, AND ASSUMING THAT THE PRESIDENT TRANSMITS HIS DECISION TO THE

CONGRESS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 7, THE SIXTY CALENDAR DAY PERIOD WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 8. IF CONGRESS REMAINS IN SESSION, THE SIXTY CALENDAR DAYS WOULD EXPIRE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6. IF THE CONGRESS RECESSES IN OCTOBER, THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO THE BEGINNING OF THE RECESS WOULD COUNT AGAINST THE SIXTY DAYS, BUT THE PERIOD OF THE RECESS WOULD NOT. THEREFORE, AN OCTOBER RECESS COULD ALLOW THE CONGRESS TO DELAY ITS APPROVAL UNTIL SOMETIME IN 1978.

- 4. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS WILL RECESS IN EARLY OCTOBER AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1. HOWEVER, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE CONGRESS WILL PASS THE REQUIRED JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL BEFORE RECESSING.
- 5. SINCE THE CONGRESS COULD ACT ON THE PIPELINE DECISION BEFORE THE OCTOBER RECESS, IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE FOR THE GOC TO DELAY ITS DECISION PROCESS.
- 6. OF COURSE, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL ACT BEFORE THE OCTOBER RECESS, NOR IS THERE ANY ASSURANCE THAT A RECESS WILL OCCUR IN EARLY OCTOBER. VANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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## Message Attributes

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